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PE Programme positions itself for the upturn in the oil industry



Prof Lau Hon Chung, one of NUS Engineering professors who is spearheading the PE programme, explaining the use of the Petroleum Expert's Integrated Reservoir Modelling software.

DESPITE the downturn in the oil industry, the two-year old petroleum engineering (PE) programme in NUS Engineering has been growing and strengthening its ties with the oil industry in Singapore and abroad to prepare itself for the upturn in the market.

The PE programme, funded by EDB, is administered under the Centre for Offshore Research and Engineering (CORE). It currently has four full-time faculty members, of which three are industry veterans. The PE programme aims to train students for the upstream oil industry, to establish upstream R&D research programmes and to attract more companies to operate in Singapore. It has already established joint research projects with companies, including Halliburton, CGG and NauticAWT. Discussions are ongoing with other companies and academic institutes to explore partnership.

Recently, the PE programme received two substantial industry donations on state-of-the-art petroleum engineering software for teaching and research. Petroleum Experts, based in Edinburgh, UK, has donated to NUS Engineering ten academic licenses of its Integrated Reservoir Modelling software (PROSPER, GAP, PVPT, MBAL, and REVEAL & RESOLVE), as well as a networking licensing system, HARDLOCK, with a commercial value of more than £1.3 million (S\$2.3 million).

Computer Modelling Group Limited, a Canadian company based in Calgary, Alberta, has also donated ten academic licenses of their reservoir simulation software (SOLVE, CMOST, WinProp and Builder and Results).

“These state-of-the-art simulators will significantly improve our teaching and research capability. They will allow us to study and solve realistic and challenging engineering problems seen in the oilfield, thus enabling us to stay connected and relevant to the oil industry,” says Professor Lau Hon Chung, who is one of NUS Engineering professors spearheading the PE programme.

The PE programme is currently seeking applicants to its MSc, PhD, and post-doctoral programmes in petroleum engineering, and limited scholarships will be available to qualified students.